

PLANAR GAP PRE-FILL METHOD FOR READ HEADS

IN THE SPECIFICATION

After the title, please insert the following paragraph. (See Appendix B)

--The present application is a divisional of U.S. application serial number 09/875,405 which was filed on June 5, 2001, which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.--

IN THE CLAIMS

Please delete Claims 1-8 and 16-19, and add Claims 20-38, as follows: (See Appendix C)

9. A method for fabricating a magnetoresistive (MR) read head comprising:
 - depositing a shield layer;
 - etching a recessed portion in an upper surface of the shield layer, the recessed portion of the shield layer defining a protruding portion of the shield layer;
 - depositing a first gap layer on top of the recessed portion of the shield layer;
 - depositing a second gap layer on top of the first gap layer and the protruding portion of the shield layer;
 - positioning an MR sensor on top of the second gap layer in vertical alignment with the protruding portion of the shield layer;
 - positioning first and second lead layers on top of the second gap layer, the first and second lead layers being connected to the MR sensor; and
 - depositing a third gap layer on top of the second gap layer, the MR sensor, and the first and second lead layers.